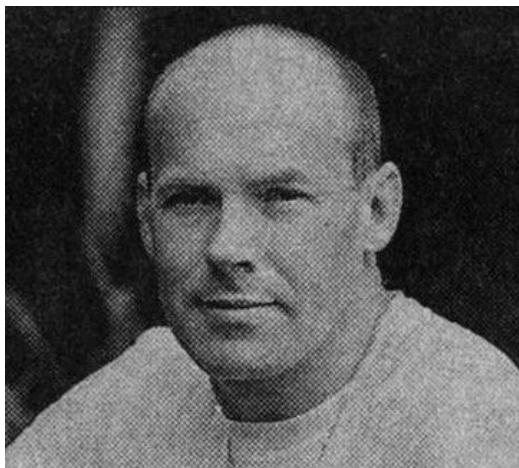


Darren Northam



Born in 1967 (Sydney), Darren's parents Bill and Edna moved to the Central Coast in 1973. Bill took him to Gosford Soccer Club for his first year of soccer in 1974 but was attracted to the East Gosford Soccer Club "the Dinosaurs" as they were known then, the next year. He was unaware as to what was to follow but it is a hard act to follow and only for a bit better luck, could have even better.

He joined the East Gosford U8 mid season in 1975, after firstly registering with Gosford 1975. For the next 6 years with East Gosford, he had unprecedented success. Seven seasons undefeated in the local competition including Semi Finals and Grand Finals from U8 to U13. The team played: 121 games won: 109. Drew: 12, Lost: 0, Goals Scored: 656, Goal Against: 29, Total Points 230. All this and the participation in the Central Coast Representative teams which played in the NNSW State Titles each June Long Weekend and the dual registration in the Sydney Youth League from 1978 (U11) to 1983 (U15 & Reserve and

1st Grade).

He finished his nine year tenure on the Coast in 1983 playing for the successful (League Champions and Runners Up) Central Coast NNSW State League side in both 1st grade and Reserve grade. In this year Darren at the age of 16 was chosen to play for NNSW in the National U18 Titles. He, also, trialled for Marconi U19 competition but was told to come back next year. But it was the invitation to the AIS in Canberra under the guidance of ex-Socceroo Jim Shoulder which was the highlight of 1983. For the next 3 years Darren lived, drank and ate soccer. He continued to represent NNSW in their youth team during the year 1983 through to 1985. He was selected in the Australian School boys team in 1985 and the NSW youth team in 1986.

With his full time training at the AIS, Darren became a permanent member of the Australian U19 youth squad. 1987 saw him selected for the Australian Youth squad in the FIFA Under 20 World Cup held in Santiago, Chile. The team lost to Chile 0-2 and also to Yugoslavia 0-4. During 1987, he assisted Eric Marshall in the coaching of the U13 Rep Side.

Self training was one of Darren's hallmarks to the success he achieved and the heights he gained. Apart from team training nights, he would do a fair bit of training on his own, mostly on skills. He could do 4000 juggles with the ball at his feet.

He has played all over the world and the most remembered occasion was the Final of a Youth Tournament played in Europe against Real Madrid in Dortmund Stadium Germany with a capacity of 50,000 people.

In 1986 he became a permanent member of the Blacktown City's 1st Grade under supervision of Les Schienflug, one of the leading youth coaches in the Australian scene. He stayed at Blacktown until the end of the 1989/1990 Summer season of National Soccer League. He came back to Central Coast to play in the Winter Competition of 1990. He was however captured by Newcastle Breakers side for the next 2 years after which he decided to have a two year rest. He returned to the Central Coast for the 1996 Winter Competition under Vic Bozanic in the Club's first appearance in the NSW Super League.

1997-2000 ????

During 2000 Darren was appointed to the position of Football Director for the Central Coast Representative Soccer Club. He was extremely focussed on providing budget priced coaching for talented junior players. He started by setting up free sessions at Plum Park on a Wednesday afternoon. He encouraged players to juggle with a tennis ball, something he was able to do extremely well. In late 2000, he again joined Central Coast as a player in their participation in the NSW Premier League played during the summer months over 2000/2001 under the coaching of Dale Eggleton.

2003 Darren was a prominent supporter of the push by several wealthy investors for Central Coast team to be added to the list of a newly proposed Australian Premier League to replace the ailing National Soccer League. It was a start of what we now know as the A-League which commenced in 2005.

2004 Assistant coach CC U20 under

2006 Assistant coach CC 1st & Reserves under

2007 Assistant coach CC 1st grade under

He acknowledges the persons to whom helped him in his career are Ron Smith, Jim Shoulder and Bruce Stowell.

We will never know how far Darren would have progressed up the ladder, if his luck had served him better. Irrespective of those probabilities, he achieved a great deal in the sport, of which few have experienced, and became a fine ambassador of the code, he dearly loves, on the Central Coast.

During that time, Darren played for Australian Schoolboys (1985), NSW Youth team (1986), Australian Under 20 Youth Team which played in the 1987 FIFA U20 World Youth Cup in Santiago Chile, Blacktown City (1986-1990), Newcastle Breakers (1991-1992), Central Coast (1990, 2000/2001) and then provided his experience and knowledge to several Central Coast teams as assistant coach. Darren is a great ambassador of the sport on the Coast.